

31. (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 29] claim 17 or 27, wherein said third lens group comprises, in order from an object side thereof, a positive lens convex on an object side thereof and a doublet consisting of a positive lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative lens concave on an image plane side thereof, and peripheries of object side-directed convex surfaces of both said object-side positive lens and said doublet in said third lens group are held by a lens holder barrel while said convex surfaces are abutting at said peripheries or some points on said lens holder barrel.

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-38 are pending in the application.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 10-17, 27, 28 and 32-38 have been allowed.

The Examiner objected to claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 18-26, 29, 30 and 31 as being in improper multiple dependent form. Applicants respectfully traverse with respect to the

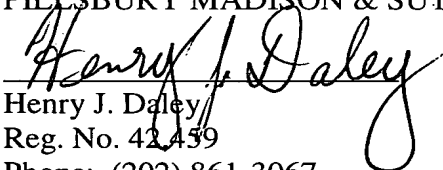
objection to claim 18 since claim 18 depends from claims 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 or 17. All of claims 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 are independent claims, thus claim 18 is a proper multiple dependent claim. Applicants amended claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29 and 30 such that each is dependent only from one claim. Applicants amended claim 31 such that it depends from claim 17 or 27, each of which are independent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims 4, 6-9, 18-26, 29, 30 and 31 are now in proper multiple dependent form. Furthermore, each of claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 18-26, 29, 30 and 31 depends from claims that have been allowed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 18-26, 29, 30 and 31 are now also in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended the specification to correct minor clerical and grammatical errors. In addition, Applicants amended claim 5 to correct a clerical error and claim 28 to insert a period at the end of the claim.

Applicants have addressed all of the Examiner's objections and rejections and respectfully submit that the Application is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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